This is BILK 27 - January 1989 - Editor: Ulrich Magin. Stuhlbruderhofstr. 4 67o4 Mutterstadt. West Germany. Subscription (6 issues per year) 15 German Marks. No foreign currency cheques can be accepted.

BEHEMOTH: Loch Ness: Janet Bord has sent me an article by Steuart Campbell ("The key to the loch?", British Journal of Photography, 22. Sept.,p.12/13) in which he discusses waves mistaken for Nessie. He claims that many reports can be explained as waves and wakes left by passing vessels, and I agree. Among his examples are the 196o Dobbs sighting, the 196o Bruce Ing report, the 1933 Scot II sighting, and the 1955 McNab photo. "Wake effects are an important class of explanation for reports of the Loch Ness monster, which, when added to the other explanations available, permit the claim that all reports of Nessie have an explanation within the bounds of present knowledge", he writes. I would add another godd example: the Goodbody report. At the end of 1933, he observed a many-humped monster during a snowstorm. He counted the number of humps, but never got the same count. This would be typical of a wake effect (cf. J & C Bord: Alien Animals, Pb.,p.173)
Wannsee, Berlin: The German tabloid Bild am Sonntag, 25. Sept, had a photo of a dummy monster in this Berlin Lake, with the headline: "How did Nessi (sic!) get into the Wannsee?" The 5o-yard serpent was part of a Scotland Fair in Berlin. For most Germans, Scotland and Nessie are almost synonymous.
China: I've had several articles about Lake Hanas near Urumqi in North China. Now I have two more, both given, once again, different names and spellings. Das neue China (5/1988, p.9) reprints a Xinhua press release about Lake Lacikai, where a 1o yard, red fish is being hunted by scientists. (released on August 9) China im Bild (Nov 1988, p.1o/11) has an articly by Sun Guiqin and Sun Shuqing on Lake Kanas. This definitely is the same Lake Hanas in Xinjiang that made headlines two years ago. Again the monster, a 1o yard, 2 to 3-ton fish, is mentioned It says scientists think it is a giant Hucho taimen (Chinese or Latin name?), but that the biggest one spotted by scientists in the lake was only 4 yards in length. A fine colour picture shows the lake and the wooden pavillion from where the first sightings were made two summers ago.
Switzerland: In Lake Lugano, several people observed a big water serpent, described as cobra. There were several sightings, two different accounts that mentioned its death (being swallowed by a swan in one), and many reports in Swiss papers. It's not very clear if the whole thing was a rumour, or if there was really an escaped pet serpent. (Basler Zeitung, 23. Aug.,Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 24. Aug,p.9d, Glarner Nachrichten, 15 Oct.) If I find time, I'll try to reconstruct the event.
Switzerland: Lago Maggiore, in German Langensee, was mentioned as the home of a monster by Costello, and, recently, in the Glarner Nachrichten, 15. Oct. According to the article, giant fish have been cought in the lake. One was later identified as silurus glanus, or catfish. This is the old candidate for European lake monster, and may be the only species responsable for these reports. The same article also mentions the "giant rat" caught near the border to Italy. It has now been identified as Nutria (Myocastor coypus). These animals are kept in fur farms, and one escaped and crossed the border to Switzerland, where it was killed and made headlines. (For the Swiss news, credits to Andreas Trottmann and Luc Bürgin).
Taiwan: According to the Free China Journal, 18. Aug,p.3, August is the month when ghosts roam Taiwan: "a swimmer may be dragged underwater by a water ghost". So far no casualities reported.

ISIS: Book: Elaine Morgan's book on water apes ("The Aquatic Ape") has been published in German ("Kinder des Ozeans", Goldmann, Munich) - according to Morgan, man had an aquatic past. This would nicely explain the American aquatic Sasquatch, descriped by Coleman, and probably even mermaids. Very interesting. (More about "aquatic apes" in the Listener, 12. May 196o,by A. Hardy, with letters in the May 19. edition on Cannes and yetis).
Bipedia: I've mentioned Francois de Sarre and his ideas about human evolution in Bilk 21. Sarre now produces a beautiful computer-set magazine, called Bipedia, with articles in English and French (abstracts in English). Some aspects of his theory are relevant to aquatic cryptozoology - for example - are there marine hominids? Subscription is $ 15 or FF 1oo, and Bipedia is published by the Centre d'etudes et de recherches sur la bipedie initiale (CERBI), BP 65, o6o22 NICE cedex, France. I can recommend it.
General: Gerard van Leusden has sent me an article in Dutch on mermaids. It is

"Paraisie", Aug 1988,pp.28-33. It seems to be pretty complete, with psychology, sightings, Lehn's mirage theory, etc, included. Author is Hans van Kampen title: Het geheim van de zeemeermin (The Secret of the Merman).
Lizard Man: The most recent INFO Journal has an adventure report on the observation of lizard man-like creatures in Virginia. Lizard Men are also a part of Edgar Dacqué's theory of evolution, which I will describe in one of the next issues of Bipedia. I was also reminded of Karel Capek's intelligent newts, and Lovecraft's newt-men in Massachusetts (both are fiction), and the lizard men depicted on the faked "Inca-Stones of Ica", which have been mentioned by all ancient astronaut-theorists, like Däniken, Charroux, Benítez.

LEVIATHAN: Wales: The Welsh leatherback turtle, mentioned in last Bilk, was actually caught off Harlech, in the very region of Barmy, the Welsh sea monster - another mystery gone. In all reports I have, biologists wondered about how the turtle got there, even though these turtles frequently come to Britain (where they are often confused with "sea monsters", like the one off Soay!) Sources: Rheinpfalz, 28. Sept., Rhein-Zeitung, 28. Sept.,p.4bc,Basler Zeitung (credit: Luc Bürgin), 28. Sept.
Sellafield: According to a radio station (HR 1, 23. Aug) people have observed seamonsters off the Sellafield coast in England. This is where the notorious risky nuclear plant stands. I've not heard the report myself, so I cannot vouch for it. It was probably a misunderstanding, as deformed fish are regularily fished in the Irish Sea - prbably they were referring to that.

KRAKEN: Newfoundland: A 5-man expedition will go hunting for giant squids in a mini submarine in Bonavista Bay,NF. Biologist Fred Aldrich of the Memorial University in St. Johns, NF, wants to be the first to observe living squids of that size. The expedition, part of the National Georgraphic Society, dived in the middle of November, I've not yet read of any results. In October and November of the past few years, giant squidshave been spotted in the bay. The biologists used tuna as bait, and even tried to capture a giant squid alive and bring it to Saint Johns. They had a net for it. 62-year old Aldrich said it was his dream for 25 years to catch one...(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 1o. Nov, p.9a)
Greece: Tim Severin: The Quest for Ulysses, in: National Geographic, Aug 1986 pp. 197 - 225, identifies Scylla's Cave with Leukas, Greece, where he found modern legends about lamias (half serpent, half woman), and a mysterious-looking cave.

USOS: Jupiter Journal, a Swiss New Age/Ufology-magazine, Nr. 6, 8/1988,p.?, had an article on USOS in the Amazonas River. According to the Lima, Peru-newspaper Hoy, 6. March 88, there is a Cementerio del Diabolo (Devil's Cemetary) in the Amazonas River, where Ufos have an underwater basis. Sightings are said to be an everyday-event in the region. Ufology is very popular in Latin America, and it appears as if they are developing their own Devil's Triangle myth there.

WHALES: -dolphins accompany shipwrecked sailors, Indonesia, 14. Nov, west of Java (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 18 Nov,p.9a). -dolphin observed in Hamburg Harbour (Rhein-Zeitung, 6. Dec,p.4a). - whale stranding at Augusta, Perth, Australia. 37 whales were rescued, but returned to land (Saudi Gazette, 3 Oct,p.4a; Arab News, 5 Oct,p.1a). This is a very popular spot for beached whales. - 8o whales beached at Mangawhai, Auckland, NZ (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 Oct) - 3 whales trapped in ice off Alaska, and attempts to rescue them: Arab News, 26 Oct,p.?, 27 Oct,p.5ef;Saudi Gazette, 25 Oct & 27 Oct,p.4abc; Rhein-Zeitung, 29 Oct,p.5abc & 31 Oct,p.4ab; Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 29 Oct; Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 Oct; Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 1. Nov,p.5c; ABC, Madrid, 3o Oct,p.66; and many more) - sperm whale off Cape Ferrat, France (Nice-Martin, 22. Sept & 23. Sept). - attack by killer whales on sailing ship: The Times, 15 June,p.47.

SHARK ATTACKS: great white attacks off Oregon: Arab News, 26 Oct,p.2of; off South Africa, on Oct 1o: Saudi Gazette, 8 Oct,p.5h.

RIVER CULT: The Daily Telegraph (Sept 5, p.3cde) had an article on a Celtic river cult. The Thames between Oxford and London was between 12oo BC and 5o AD "a place of burial". Prof Richard Bradley, Reading University, said: "The connection between death and watery places went back to the Stone Age". Many monsters surely started as River Spirits, and have now been updated to real "lake serpents".